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1. About the first of December 1948, Col. S. I. Tyulpanov held conferences with the leaders of the ~~Eastern Zone~~ CDU and of the ~~Eastern Zone~~ LDP, at which he stated that the Soviet authorities were dissatisfied with the excessive degree to which the SED had identified itself with the occupying power. He said it was not to the best interests of the Germans to let themselves seem to be opposed to the Soviet Union merely because of their opposition to the actions of the SED. This point was of particular concern to the CDU and the LDP because the corresponding parties in western Germany, and especially in West Berlin, are so emphatically anti-Soviet. For this reason it was desirable for the members of the recent deputation to Moscow (early November) to bring home to their party colleagues the favorable impressions derived from their visit. The entire energies of the two parties should be devoted to this question; it was not enough to join in the issuing of resolutions and proclamations. Tyulpanov asserted that the Russians are in earnest about leaving Germany, but cannot do so until they can count on the friendly attitude of the whole population.
2. In consequence of this conversation, the CDU leadership called a meeting of its executive committees from the entire zone, and Otto Nuschke and Georg Dertinger gave talks on the relations between the Germans and the Russians. They made the following points: A position of neutrality vis-à-vis the occupying powers is no longer possible, since four-power control has broken down. It is now clear that the Soviet Union is not only the natural and inescapable neighbor of Germany, but is also following the most consistent and constructive policy towards Germany. The relationship between the two countries is no longer that between a defeated nation and an occupying power, but simply that between one country and another. Germany -- for the moment, to be sure, only the ~~Eastern Zone~~ -- has really become a partner of the Soviet Union in economic and cultural matters. The necessity of carrying on

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there has developed a relationship of mutual confidence between the two peoples. There is now good reason to expect that Russia will be the first power to evacuate Germany, without waiting for a similar decision on the part of its former allies. When that time comes, it will not be to Russia's advantage to leave a Germany which is completely controlled by one single party, especially one which does not enjoy the full confidence of the public. The popular actions initiated by the Soviet authorities must be supported by the CDU by independent campaigns of its own; in particular, a more positive attitude must be adopted toward the socialistic reformation of society. The CDU needs to organize its whole party apparatus in behalf of such an attitude; the more effectively it does this of its own free will, the sooner the Russians will be able to relax their control of the party's activities. Thus an increased opportunity will be provided for the free development of Germany as a whole.

3. A similar meeting of LDP leaders was addressed by Prof. Hermann Kastner and Dr. Karl Hamann. They announced plans for working out a set of principles which shall harmonize "the basic liberal requirements of our time with the revolutionary social developments". They admitted that the LDP is facing a critical situation in the Eastern Zone because the system of planned economy is a threat to the existence of the party. However, their visit to Russia and the discussions carried on during the visit convinced them that the Russian order of society is better adapted than any other to the objectives of the LDP. For this reason the LDP can no longer be neutral as between all foreign powers, but must place itself squarely on the side of the Soviet Union. Since Russia has more understanding of liberal-democratic objectives than any other country, it is incumbent upon the LDP to vie with the SED in friendliness towards eastern Europe. The party's mission has hitherto been misunderstood because the word "liberal" was regarded as synonymous with "western". It has not been realized that the Soviet Union is now advancing from the period of controlled economy into the truly liberal period. This indicates the policy which the LDP should make peculiarly its own; it must abandon its policy of pure opportunism towards the Russians, and must strongly advocate the only connection which is possible, namely that with the East and with Russia.
4. Both party groups made plans for special lectures and training courses designed to persuade their party members and officials of the rightness of the principles set forth above.

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There is no evidence to suggest that Nuschke and Dertinger, Kastner and Hamann were speaking with tongue in cheek, or that they do not themselves believe in the ideas which they expressed at these meetings.)

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